



## *April 2020 Bridge*

**Yreka United Methodist Church**  
502 N. Fairchild St, Yreka CA 96097

**Pastor  
Toni Hartman**

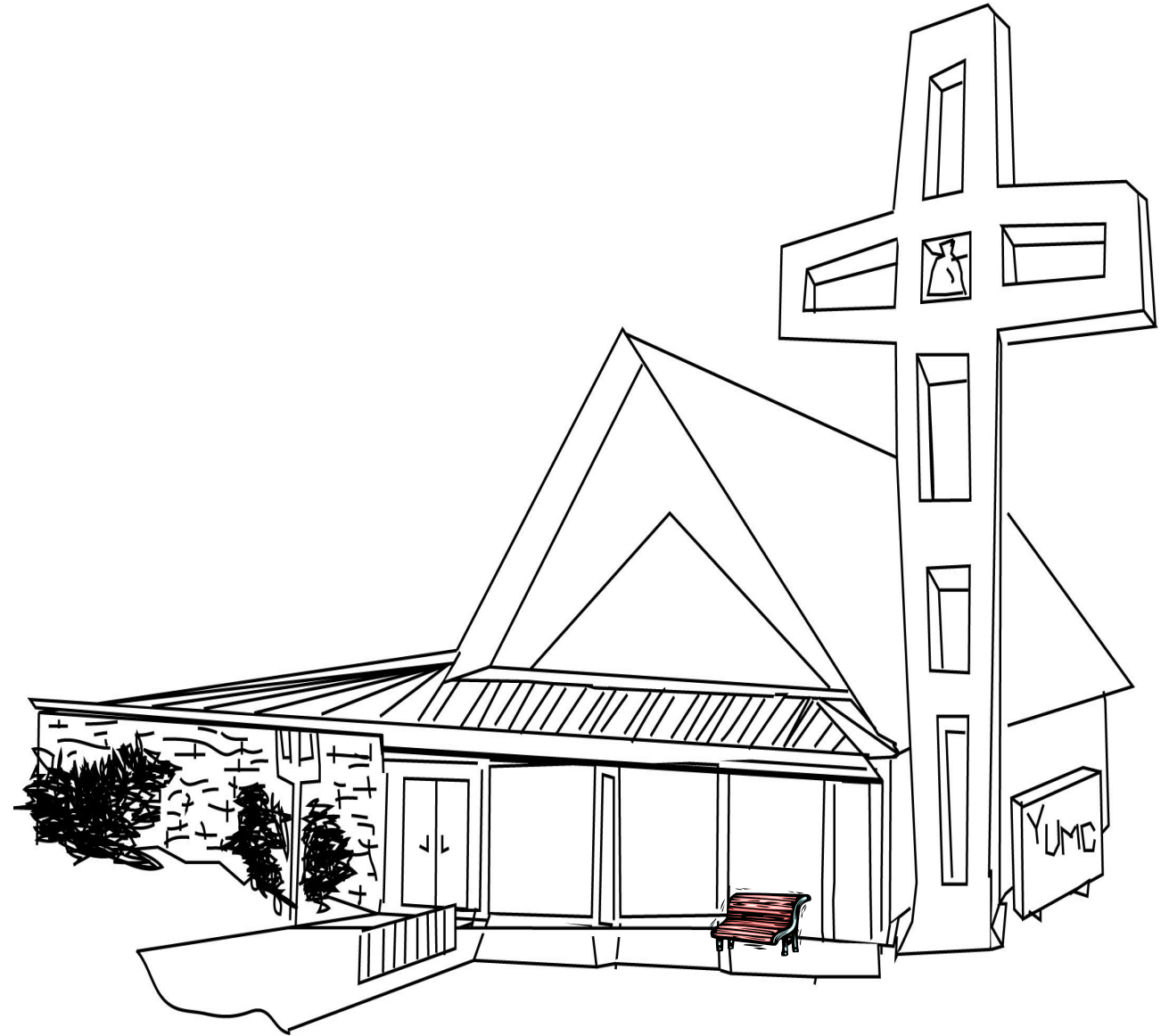
**Office Hours**

**Monday thru Friday**

**10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Office Manager**

**Michael Burleson-Raney**



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## A Note from Pastor Toni

How things have changed in a month! Who could have ever known that our world would be in complete chaos and turmoil because of an unprecedented event. The medical world uses the word, ‘*novel*’, for such an event. This is a *novel corona virus* that has demanded all of our attention; more than anything else I’ve seen in my lifetime. We are all facing drastic if not dramatic changes in our daily routine.

Many of us are home from work and working from home. Many of us are considered “high risk” because of health issues that can render us severely sick if we contract this virus. Many of us are beginning to get edgy, depressed, or angry because we feel confined and our freedom has been taken away.

I admit that I have had those thoughts periodically in the past couple of days. It brought to mind a quote that I have often said to myself out loud since Bill passed away. It's a quote spoken by Victor Frankl, who was an Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist, as well as a Holocaust survivor. Frankl said this: “***The last of one’s freedoms is to choose one’s attitude in any given circumstance.***” My second favorite morsel of wisdom said by Frankl is this: “***When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.***” To parallel these statements with scripture the Apostle Paul teaches us in **1 Thess. 5:16-18**, “*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for*

*this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*” **Ps. 7:17** reminds us to “...*give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness, and sing praise to the name of the Lord, Most High!*” And in **1 John 4:4** we are reminded about who we are in Christ, which alone ought to help us change our attitudes! “*Little children (COGPOW’s) you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world!*” And finally Paul reminds us in **Rom. 12:2-3**, “*Therefore, do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.*” “*When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves!!*” So, your challenge in our current situation is to challenge yourself to be more like Jesus than you have ever been before. You can be the voice of reason, joy, possibility, truth, love, grace and hope!

The writer of Hebrews encourages us to “...*not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as we see the day approaching.*” **Heb. 10:25** The ‘day’ the writer was referring to was the day of Christ’s return. I would like to suggest that ‘the day’ for us is the day when we can look back and remember how our attitudes affected others during the time of the novel corona virus. Just maybe, the way you are handling this could be

the catalyst for someone coming to Christ. Please stay connected during this time as a faith community. Touch base with those who live alone or are struggling with illness. Be a voice of strength and compassion, listen more than usual and pray with others when you can. Tune-in and invite family and friends to tune in Sundays at 10:00am on the Yreka United Methodist Facebook page for worship and a message of hope in this current series called, *Perspective*. And tune-in every morning at 11:30 for a daily devotional. (*right now I’m looking at what Jesus says about, worry*).

I am praying for everyone of you daily and look forward to when we can be together physically again.

The Bishop has given us permission to do a virtual communion celebration the first Sunday of April. Watch for instructions on your email which I will have Michael send next week. And take care of yourselves. Take really good care of yourselves. The first Sunday we are able to meet again in our house of worship will be our official Easter! And we will celebrate the Resurrection as people who live on the resurrection side of the cross!

In his Love,

**Pastor Toni**

## April 2020 *Birthdays*

Jim Davis	2
Joshua Holmes	2
Rick Bowers	3
Sandy Hynd	17
Steve Leal	20
Linda Kindred	29



## *Anniversaries*

Steve and Allison Leal	4
Mike and John Burleson-Raney	5



## *What's Happening with Saints Alive! in April!*

*It is my sincere hope and belief that this column will be full of things in our May Bridge.*

*Saints Alive events are open to anyone 55 or older, or anyone who knows someone 55 or older!*

*If you have questions or comments please contact Michael in the office.*



**UMM  
BREAKFAST**  
Will not be happening.  
Hopefully it will be able to happen in May.

Vacation Bible School!



**Save the  
Date!**  
**2020 VBS**  
**July 13-17**



Time to sign-up for Secret Sisters!

So if there are any other secret sisters that would like to participate. Please contact Michael and he can send you a form over the email as we haven't got started yet and we are thinking up some creative ideas on how we can get this started soon.



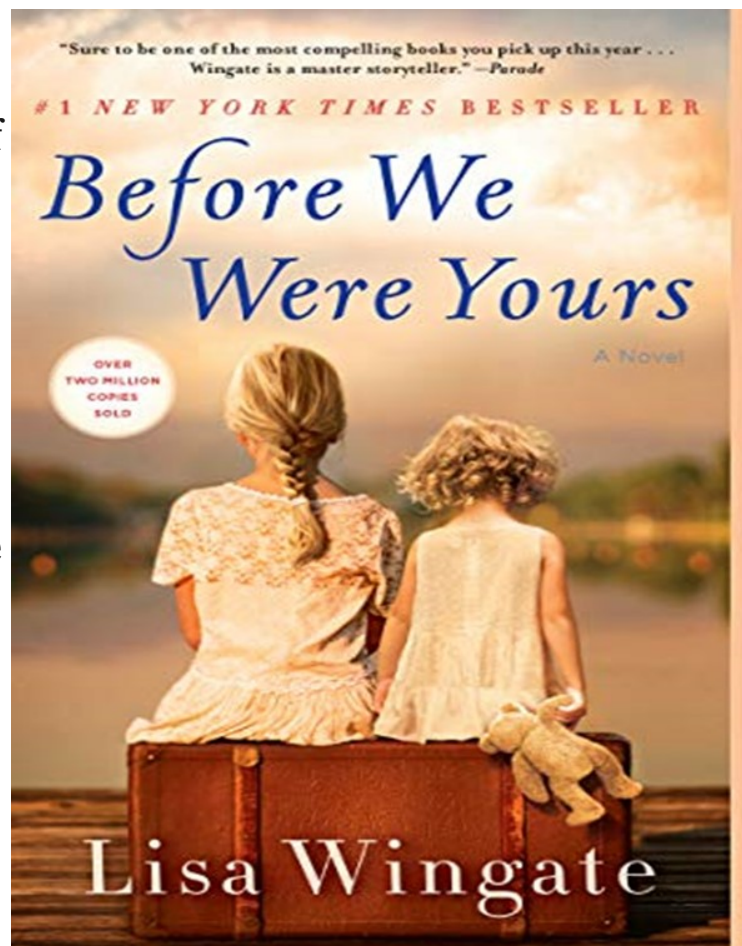
## The Book Club – Thursday, April 2, 2020

(An exuberant subsidiary of YUMC's Saints Alive!)

meeting on the second Thursday of each month (except this month)

presents:

*Before We Were Yours* is a blockbuster bestselling novel. It is based on one of the most notorious scandals in American history. This was the real-life story of how Georgia Tann used her position as the director of an adoption organization in Memphis to kidnap and sell poor children to rich families all over the United States. Lisa Wingate's novel *Before We Were Yours* is a wrenching yet uplifting tale about the many paths life can lead to and how the heart never forgets where it really belongs.



*The Book Club will not meet this month.*

## The Book Club –May 2020 Selection

(An exuberant subsidiary of YUMC's Saints Alive!)

meeting on the second Thursday of each month

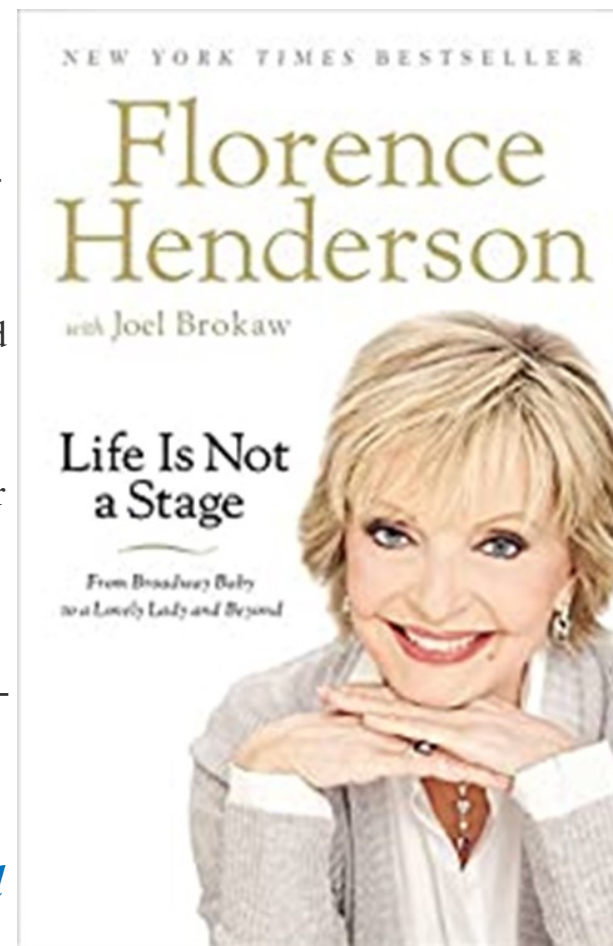
--except during the 2020 Pandemic--

presents:

Carol Brady, the character Florence Henderson played on the perennially popular sitcom the Brady Bunch was the perfect mother, but Henderson's background growing up in the aftermath of the Great Depression was a sharp contrast to that innocent suburban idyll. And though Mrs. Brady is the character she's most associated with, Henderson's talents have taken her career far beyond the scope of one TV sitcom. From The Tonight Show, to Broadway with Rodgers and Hammerstein, to her more recent appearance on Dancing With the Stars, Florence opens up about her life in and out of the spotlight. From her challenging childhood, to her extramarital affairs and divorce, Florence writes with honesty and wisdom in this inspiring memoir.

*This Book Club Selection was chosen by Dwala Smith, and will be shared whenever it is safe to do so. In the meanwhile, keep on reading!*

*PS This book is not available everywhere, but can be found in many thrift book stores and online. If you'd like some help ordering it, just let Anita know at 530-468-2119, or at [anitalantz@att.net](mailto:anitalantz@att.net).*



## The Church Budget

I have been writing about the church budget for the past couple of months. You may remember I said a budget is a plan. According to Robbie Burns, “The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft a-gley.” and our financial plans have truly gone awry recently. In February our utility bill was well over \$3000.00 which is hard for most of us to imagine. But we have gas, electricity, water, sewer, telephone and trash removal bills to pay also. Before the need for social distancing, our building was used every day by several groups. Many of these groups paid rent. While we expect that our use of gas, electricity and water will go down this month, we will still have a bill to pay for each of these. That is why it is so important for you to continue the support of our church.

### Do you pay your pledge online?

Just go to your bank website and click on “pay bills”. Fill in the information requested  
Name of Payee: Yreka United Methodist Church

No account number is needed.

Address: 502 North Fairchild St.  
Yreka, CA 96097

Phone: 530-842-4291

Enter the amount and how often you would like to send your contribution.  
You can schedule a one-time payment when you will be out of town, or schedule a regular weekly or monthly payment.

Questions? Call the Church Office at 842-4291. Michael is a whiz!



## 2020 YUMC Leadership Team

Joe Allison - Chair

Kelly Atchley - Children & Youth Ministries

Deb Bein - Personnel

Charles Cook - Facilities

Sarah Frey - Congregational Care

Cliff Lantz - Finance

Jenn Villani - Adult Ministries & Missions

The Leadership Team meets on the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm in Room 8 of the Education Bldg. All church members are welcome to attend.

Our next meeting is to be announced.





# IMPACT

**Joshua 1:9** “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

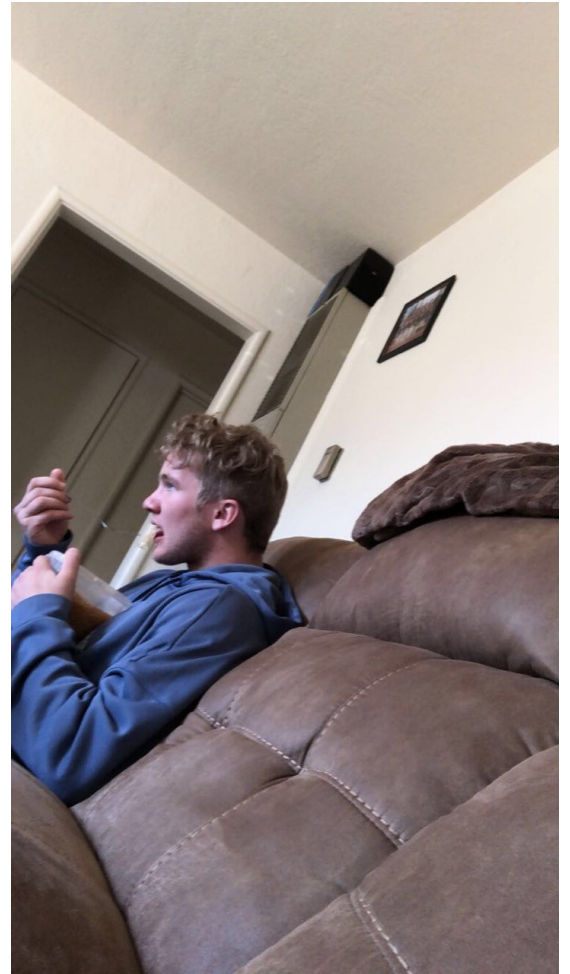
This verse has popped up so much recently, and I can’t help but be challenged by its timeless message. It has been discouraging to be away from my Church family and all the IMPACT kids, but God has commanded us to be “Strong and courageous!”

I can’t say I’ve been a stellar example of strength and courage, but I’m doing my best to realize that God is with me wherever I g....even in Quarantine!

I’m very thankful for the technology that allows us to stay connected. One night this week, I challenged the IMPACT kids to text me their best quarantine pictures. Some rose to the challenge, so here are a couple of cute photos to brighten your day!

Peace & Blessings,

*Leah*





## Grab and Go

The Tailgater Ministry remains committed to serving meals to the unsheltered and marginally sheltered in our community during these difficult times. Volunteers continue to meet Saturday mornings to make the lunches and pray over them. A small group of our street team gathers Sunday morning to load the trailer, pray over our guests, and hand out the lunches at noon. Every precaution is being taken to protect the team and our guests. We are practicing social distancing, wearing gloves, sanitizing tables and other equipment, and supplying hand sanitizer to our guests as well as “bathing” in it ourselves. Guests are asked to leave the area immediately after picking up their lunches and everyone has been very cooperative and extremely grateful.

For all of you that continue to bring food and supplies...THANK YOU, THANK, THANK YOU. We could not continue without your help.





# Tailgaters!



As you can see Family members wore gloves, tape was put out to keep our guests in front of the tables and a good time was still had by all. Aren't there a lot of smiling faces?





## Congregational Care Report to LT

### March, 2020

Sarah Frey

Due to the COVID-19 advent and the closing of the church facility, most people on our address list have been contacted by phone to determine how they are doing and what assistance they may need. Those people thought to be most vulnerable and dependent were called first. The response to “telecare” has been amazing. This has been an opportunity to connect with “regulars” as well as with people that we have not seen in our assembly for a long time and who have questions and concerns about various things. The latter group appreciated being connected once again to the church.

To help people to connect with church on Facebook, Anita Lantz and I again called people who are not on the email list of the church. It was amazing how many of the non-email people either have Facebook or knew of a way they could become connected. People were very interested and excited about “having church” in their own homes. I hope we keep this option for worship beyond the current crisis.

Three people in our congregation have volunteered through Pastor Toni to do shopping, pharmaceutical deliveries and other errands for people who are staying in seclusion.

Doris Callison is now receiving meals in her home 3 times a week as she recovers from knee surgery. Anyone who would like to prepare a meal for her please call me at 842-4980.

A “Choose How You Will Serve” survey was prepared to be circulated to the congregation on March 15. That being the first Sunday we did not meet in the building, the surveys are waiting in a file folder for the proper time to be distributed.

The *Loving Each Other* bulletin insert is going out with the new weekly bulletin. Thank you, Michael, for the orchid colored title to continue the continuity. Getting information for this insert has been difficult for me. Please, please, please encourage people to participate in supplying things the congregation needs to know. Call me yourself with info early enough in the week so that I can seek permission to have things published.

I am open to suggestions from you about how we can expand congregational care—particularly during this season of many changes and increased anxiety.

I can be reached at [sarahpaf@att.net](mailto:sarahpaf@att.net) and 842-4980.



# From the Leadership Board April 2020 . . .

## **Restricted Operations during Pandemic.**

Even before the Governor's proclamation, your Leadership Board decided at a March 17 emergency meeting that to protect our congregants and employees the buildings would be locked and closed to all use through April 5. The Governor's proclamation effectively extends that until further notice. Only Pastor Toni, church employees, the Facilities crew, the Tailgater's crew and Leadership Board are permitted entry and then only for so long as is necessary to accomplish the task at hand (i.e. Michael is still in the office and Liesl is doing deep cleaning and sanitizing areas used). See the Board Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2020 for a summary of the meeting and decisions made.

## **Kudos to Pastor Toni.**

In the face of an unprecedented closure of our facilities Pastor Toni has conceived and executed a brilliant plan to serve by holding services and daily devotionals via Facebook. Lots of "hearts" being sent from viewers during the program. The Leadership Team and I'm sure all YUMC members commend Toni for her efforts in this regard. Thank you too to Leah Loughlin and Michael Bray for contributing their considerable technical and musical talents to make this work.

## **Continued Good Works during Pandemic.**

Our ministries go on despite locked doors. The Tailgater's are still feeding people. I invite your attention to the April Congregational Care report for all the good work being done to support our members. Our youth ministry is keeping in touch so that they feel connected while observing social distancing.

To minimize their financial stress, during the pandemic all church employees remain employed, including making preparations for when the doors open.

## **Finances.**

The vast majority of financial support comes in Sunday gifts. Obviously without onsite services that opportunity to give has disappeared and, sorry to say, so have the gifts. My educated guess is that **giving is reduced 80% these last two weeks**. Although my estimate is that we have reduced expenses roughly 40%, our reserves will disappear in about four months.

Please consider mailing gifts directly to the church: 502 North Fairchild, Yreka 96097.

We are working to connect a PayPal account to the Facebook broadcast.

## **Spring cleaning.**

The April 21 spring cleaning date will not happen unless the Governor relaxes his order.

Good news is that the Wesley Room and social hall carpets have been cleaned.

## **Homeless Shelter.**

Thank you to leader/worker Nick Sinnott and all the volunteers that operated our homeless shelter twice weekly these past three months.

In His service,  
Joe Allison